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Joint Inspection Unit

Report of the Fifth Committee

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I. Introduction

1. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 17 September 2010, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its sixty-fifth session the item entitled "Joint Inspection Unit" and to allocate it to the Fifth Committee.

2. The Fifth Committee considered the item at its 28th meeting, on 7 March 2011. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/65/SR.28).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the report of the Joint Inspection Unit for 2010 and programme of work for 2011 (A/65/34) and a note by the Secretary-General on the report of the Joint Inspection Unit for 2010 (A/65/718).

II. Consideration of draft resolution A/C.5/65/L.29

4. At its 31st meeting, on 25 March 2011, the Committee had before it a draft resolution on the item entitled "Joint Inspection Unit" (A/C.5/65/L.29), which was submitted on the basis of informal consultations coordinated by the representative of South Africa and Vice-Chair of the Committee.

5. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/65/L.29 without a vote (see para. 6).

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III. Recommendation of the Fifth Committee

6. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Report of the Joint Inspection Unit for 2010 and programme of work for 2011

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its previous resolutions on the Joint Inspection Unit, in particular resolutions 31/192 of 22 December 1976, 50/233 of 7 June 1996, 54/16 of 29 October 1999, 55/230 of 23 December 2000, 56/245 of 24 December 2001, 57/284 A and B of 20 December 2002, 58/286 of 8 April 2004, 59/267 of 23 December 2004, 60/258 of 8 May 2006, 61/238 of 22 December 2006, 61/260 of 4 April 2007, 62/226 of 22 December 2007, 62/246 of 3 April 2008, 63/272 of 7 April 2009 and 64/262 of 29 March 2010,

Reiterating that the impact of the work of the Unit on the cost-effectiveness of activities within the United Nations system is a shared responsibility of the Member States, the Unit and the secretariats of the participating organizations,

Reaffirming the commitment by the Unit, the legislative organs and the secretariats of the participating organizations to implement a system of follow-up to the recommendations of the Unit, as set out in resolution 54/16,

Reaffirming also the statute of the Unit[1] and the unique role of the Unit as the only external and independent system-wide inspection, evaluation and investigation body,

Having considered the report of the Joint Inspection Unit for 2010 and programme of work for 2011,[2] and the note by the Secretary-General,[3]

1. *Recalls* its resolutions 61/260, 62/246, 63/272 and 64/262;

2. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Joint Inspection Unit for 2010 and programme of work for 2011;[2]

3. *Takes note* of the note by the Secretary-General;[3]

4. *Affirms* that oversight is a shared responsibility of Member States, the organizations and the internal and external oversight bodies;

5. *Reiterates its request* to the Unit, in line with its mandate, to continue to focus its work and reports on system-wide issues of interest and relevance to the participating organizations and the States Members of the United Nations and to provide advice on ways to ensure the avoidance of duplication and overlap and more efficient and effective use of resources in implementing the mandates of the Organization;

6. *Stresses* the need for the Unit to continuously update and improve its medium- and long-term strategy for 2010-2019, taking into account the dynamics and challenges of the environment in which it undertakes its activities;

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[1] Resolution 31/192, annex.

[2] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 34* (A/65/34).

[3] A/65/718.

7. *Reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General contained in paragraph 15 of its resolution 64/262, in the light of the ongoing development of the medium- and long-term strategy for 2010-2019, to reflect the appropriate resource requirements associated with the implementation of the relevant portions of the strategy, in the context of the proposed programme budgets, including those relevant to the biennium 2012-2013;

8. *Invites* the Unit to report to the General Assembly on the reform process and the progress achieved therein and to present new assessments on options for enhancing the effectiveness of its work, and requests the Secretary-General to report to the Assembly on any related implications;

9. *Welcomes* the efforts undertaken by the Unit to achieve greater effectiveness and efficiency in its working methods, and encourages the Unit to further intensify its efforts in this regard by, inter alia, increasing the use of Junior Professional Officers to assist with the workload of the Unit;

10. *Reiterates its request* to the Unit to continue to focus its reports on important priority items, identifying concrete managerial, administrative and programming questions aimed at providing the General Assembly and other legislative organs of participating organizations with practical and action-oriented recommendations;

11. *Also reiterates its request* to the Unit to issue its reports well in advance of meetings of the legislative organs of participating organizations so that the reports can be thoroughly and effectively utilized in their deliberations;

12. *Stresses* the importance of optimizing the capacity of the Unit in order to allow it to complete its reports in a timely manner, in accordance with its programme of work, and requests the Unit, during its preparation of future annual programmes of work, to optimize the number of projects therein through prioritization, by taking into account the ongoing and foreseeable processes of the legislative organs of the participating organizations as well as the number of projects carried over from previous programmes of work;

13. *Requests* the Unit to improve its future programme of work, so that Member States can easily trace the progress of each project in future annual reports;

14. *Reiterates its request* to the executive heads of the participating organizations to fully comply with the statutory procedures for consideration of the reports of the Unit and, in particular, to submit their comments, including information on what they intend to do regarding the Unit's recommendations, to distribute reports in time for their consideration by legislative organs and to provide information on the steps to be taken to implement those recommendations accepted by the legislative organs and the executive heads of participating organizations;

15. *Notes* the difficulties that the Unit encountered in 2010 in obtaining information and data from the United Nations Secretariat relevant for the preparation of the report mandated by the General Assembly, and reiterates its request to the Secretary-General and the other executive heads of the participating organizations to fully assist the Unit with the timely provision of all information requested by it pursuant to Article 6.2 of the statute of the Unit and all relevant resolutions of the Assembly;

16. *Reiterates its invitation* to the legislative organs of the participating organizations to fully consider, discuss and take concrete action in a timely manner on the relevant recommendations issued by the Unit, including follow-up as appropriate, taking into account the provisions of paragraph 4 of its resolution 50/233;

17. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chair of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, to expedite the implementation of the present resolution, including through the expected provision of support to the Unit by the secretariats of the participating organizations in the preparation of its reports, notes and confidential letters, and the consideration of and action on the recommendations of the Unit in the light of pertinent resolutions of the General Assembly, and to report to the Assembly on an annual basis on the results achieved;

18. *Welcomes and urges* further strengthening of the interaction between the Unit and focal points identified by the participating organizations regarding the work of the Unit, including discussion of the consideration and action by the participating organizations on the recommendations of the Unit;

19. *Welcomes* the efforts made by the Unit to advance the development and implementation of the web-based follow-up system;

20. *Notes* the ongoing progress in the development of a web-based follow-up system to track the Unit's recommendations, including the status of acceptance, implementation and impact;

21. *Authorizes* the Secretary-General to enter into commitments in the amount of $71,300 under the programme budget for the biennium 2010-2011 for the development of the web-based follow-up system, and requests him to report on expenditures in the context of the second performance report;

22. *Invites* other participating organizations of the Unit to make every possible effort to contribute to the cost-sharing arrangement of the web-based follow-up system in 2011;

23. *Invites* the Unit to include in its annual report information on the status of the development and implementation of the web-based follow-up system;

24. *Requests* the Unit to make every effort to ensure that future funding requests are made in the context of the established regular budget cycle;

25. *Requests* the Secretary-General to invite all relevant oversight bodies to explore the possibility of utilizing the web-based follow-up system to enhance coordination, taking into account their different mandates and statuses;

26. *Welcomes* the coordination of the Unit with the Board of Auditors and the Office of Internal Oversight Services of the Secretariat, and encourages those bodies to continue sharing experience, knowledge, best practices and lessons learned with other United Nations audit and oversight bodies, as well as with the Independent Audit Advisory Committee, with a view to avoiding overlap or duplication and achieving further synergy, cooperation, effectiveness and efficiency, without prejudice to the respective mandates of the oversight bodies.